



Office of the Attorney General
State of Texas

DAN MORALES
ATTORNEY GENERAL

May 6, 1992

Mr. Leonard W. Peck, Jr.
Assistant General Counsel
Texas Department of Criminal Justice
Institutional Division
P. O. Box 99
Huntsville, Texas 77342-0099

OR92-192

Dear Mr. Peck:

You ask whether certain information is subject to required public disclosure under the Texas Open Records Act, article 6252-17a, V.T.C.S. Your request was assigned ID# 14677.

The Texas Department of Criminal Justice Institutional Division (the "department") has received a request for information relating to an inmate disciplinary case hearing. Specifically, the requestor seeks "a transcription of the hearing tape and copies of the computer file documents." You have submitted to us for review a copy of the requested disciplinary documents. You advise us that some of the requested information has been made available to the requestor, but that the remainder is excepted from required public disclosure by section 3(a)(8) of the Open Records Act.

Section 3(a)(8) excepts

records of law enforcement agencies and prosecutors that deal with the detection, investigation, and prosecution of crime and the internal records and notations of such law enforcement agencies and prosecutors which are maintained for internal use in matters relating to law enforcement and prosecution.

When the "law enforcement" exception is claimed as a basis for excluding information from public view, the agency claiming it must reasonably explain, if the

information does not supply the explanation on its face, how and why release would unduly interfere with law enforcement. Open Records Decision No. 434 (1986), citing *Ex Parte Pruitt*, 551 S.W.2d 706 (Tex. 1977); see also Open Records Decision No. 413 (1984) (Department of Corrections is a "law enforcement" agency within the meaning of section 3(a)(8)).

We have examined the documents submitted to us for review. We conclude that release of this information would undermine a legitimate law enforcement interest. Accordingly, the portions of the investigative report not already made available to the requestor may be withheld from required public disclosure under section 3(a)(8) of the Open Records Act.

Because case law and prior published open records decisions resolve your request, we are resolving this matter with this informal letter ruling rather than with a published open records decision. If you have questions about this ruling, please refer to OR92-192.

Yours very truly,



William Walker
Assistant Attorney General
Opinion Committee

WW/GK/nhb

Ref.: ID# 14677
ID# 14806
ID# 14898

cc: Oris Alexander
TDCJ # 324616
Retrieve Unit
Route 4, Box 1500
Angleton, Texas 77515